

2009 Town Warrant Articles

Board of Selectmen
Litchfield, NH

Road Bond

To see if the town will raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,007,704.00 for the repair, reconstruction and project management of the Page Road culvert, Cranberry Lane Culvert, Chase Brook at Albuquerque Avenue culvert, the reclamation of approximately 1 mile of Albuquerque Avenue and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$807,704 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provision of the Municipal Finance Act, to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon, and to authorize the use of \$200,000.00 from the Highway Block Grant Fund; furthermore, to raise and appropriate the amount of \$11,000 for the purposes of paying the first year's bond issuance costs and interest on said bonds or notes.

The Selectmen recommend this appropriation. The Budget Committee recommends this appropriation. (3/5 ballot vote required)

Road Bond Summary

- Includes replacement of the culverts located at Chase Brook and Page Road, Cranberry Lane and Albuquerque Avenue. Further, Albuquerque Avenue from Page Road for approximately 1 mile north will be reclaimed.
- Cost includes the hiring of a project manager to oversee the work and make sure that the construction is done appropriately;
- Engineering costs are **not included** as they were included in the 2008 Warrant Article #5 previously approved by the voters;
- An inflation cost is included in order to consider the escalation of materials from the estimate date (September 2008) until start of construction;

Road Bond Costs

- Does not show \$200,000 from HBGF

Year	Principal	Interest	Total Payment	Est. Tax Rate
2009*	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
2010	\$167,704.00	\$39,274.61	\$206,978.61	\$0.22
2011	\$165,000.00	\$28,800.00	\$193,800.00	\$0.20
2012	\$160,000.00	\$21,375.00	\$181,375.00	\$0.19
2013	\$160,000.00	\$14,175.00	\$174,175.00	\$0.18
2014	\$155,000.00	\$6,975.00	\$161,975.00	\$0.17
Total	\$807,704.00	\$110,599.61	\$918,303.61	

First Year (2009) Costs

Bond Bank Fees	\$7,500.00
Bond Atty. Fees	\$3,500.00
sub total	\$11,000.00

Operating Budget

Shall the Town of Litchfield raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriates voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purpose set forth therein, totaling \$4,176,856.00. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be \$4,330,495.00, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Litchfield or by Law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA § 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee

Town Manager

Shall the town adopt the provisions of NH RSA § 37 (Town or Village District Managers) forming a Town Manager form of government, and fix the initial compensation for the position at \$85,000 per year (plus benefits), and further to appropriate the sum of \$42,500 for salary plus \$14,875 for benefits, for the period July 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 for this purpose?

Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee

Town Manager

- Changes the Litchfield form of government;
 - Details contained in RSA § 37;
 - RSA delegates specific duties to the Manager that are NOT delegated to an Administrator;
- Provides daily leadership and decision making;
 - Improved financial controls;
- Town government is too large and complex to be handled by only the Board of Selectmen

Winter Circle

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the amount of \$253,378 for the design and construction of a drainage system located at Winter Circle; \$165,394 of this amount will come from a FEMA grant with the balance of \$87,984 to be raised by taxation. This appropriation shall be non-lapsing per RSA § 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the work is completed or December 31, 2013.

Recommended by the Selectmen and Budget Committee

Winter Circle

- Road Agent has expressed concern about the drainage of the Winter Circle area;
 - Litchfield has been approved for a FEMA grant totaling \$165,394;
 - ½ of the grant has been received;
 - Engineering costs contained in a 2007 contract;
- Cost to the town to complete this work would be \$87,984.
- Failure to approve the work may result in a request to return the money to FEMA;

Police Union Contract

Shall the town vote to approve the cost items for wage and related costs that have been included in the collective bargaining agreement reached between the Town of Litchfield and Council 93 of the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees which provide for the following increases in wages and benefits;

2008	\$23,111
2009	\$40,804
2010	\$45,886

And further, to raise and appropriate the sum of \$63,915 for the 2008 and 2009 fiscal years, such sum representing the additional cost attributable to the increase in salaries and benefits over those of the appropriation at the current staffing levels, paid in the prior fiscal year. This collective bargaining agreement covers full and part time patrol officers and full and part time dispatchers.

Recommended by the Selectmen

Recommended by the Budget Committee

Police Union Contract

- Expired over a year ago;
- Contract Costs:
 - 2008 – \$23,111
 - 2009 – \$40,804
 - 2010 – \$45,886
 - Three year total of \$109,801
- Provides:
 - Increased death insurance from \$25,000 to \$100,000;
 - Shift differential for the midnight shift;
 - Better definition of call in pay;
 - Field training pay;

Full Time Police Officer

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$26,642.00 to hire one (1) full time police officer effective July 5, 2009. The cost for the period of July 5, 2009 through December 31, 2009 is \$26,642.00, of which \$18,442.00 is for salary and \$8,200.00 is for benefits and equipment. The annual cost for said officer will be \$56,989.00 if which \$39,957.00 will be for salary and \$17,032 will be for benefits and equipment.

Recommended by the Selectmen the Budget Committee

Full Time Police Officer

- A recommendation of the MRI report
- Provides two officers full time around the clock;
 - Provides local backup in case of an incident

Acceptance of Credit Cards

Shall the town of Litchfield vote to allow the Town Clerk/Tax Collector to accept credit card payments pursuant to RSA 80:52-c for the collection of local taxes, charges generated by the laws of utility services, or other fees. The Town will add to the amount due, in addition to any interest and penalties payable, a service charge for the acceptance of the card. The Board of Selectmen in coordination with the Town Clerk/Tax Collector may adopt rules and regulations regarding the collection procedure.

Recommended by the Selectmen

Acceptance of Credit Cards

- Allows the town to accept credit cards for payment of taxes, etc.
- Town charges user for the additional expense (~ 2 – 3%) for use of the card
 - Town will not incur any expense for the card's use!
- Allows citizens the option of paying by credit;

Paramedic Training

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,000.00 (gross budget) to cover the costs associated with sending one firefighter for paramedic training?

Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee

Paramedic Training

- Provides Advanced lifesaving services for the Fire Department;
- Allows for emergency personnel to commence treatment on the scene of the injury;
- May make a significant difference to the medical outcome of the patient;

Fire Department Revolving Fund

To see if the Town will vote to establish a Fire Department Special Detail Revolving Fund pursuant to RSA § 31:95-h (c). All revenues received from fees, charges, or other income derived from Fire Department special details shall be deposited into the Fund, and the money shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered part of the Town's general surplus. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the Board of Selectmen, and not further approval of the Town Meeting shall be required to expend. These funds may be expended only for purposes of Fire Department special details and associated operation and administrative purposes.

Recommended by the Selectmen and the Budget Committee

Fire Department Revolving Fund

- Similar warrant to that already enacted for the Police Department;
- Will not cost the town to fund through the collection of taxes;
 - Funding by the user of the service;
 - Money will come out of the fund to pay for the Fire Fighter's salary and equipment utilization;
 - Salary for details should not have to be budgeted going forward;

Petition Warrant Article

To see if the town will vote to discontinue the elected office of highway agent, and to authorize the selectmen to appoint the highway agent. Which appointment shall be for a term of one (1) year. The current highway agent shall continue to hold the office until the 2010 annual town meeting election, at which time the elected office shall terminate if adopted, the authority of the selectmen to appoint the highway agent shall continue in effect until changed by a majority vote at an annual or special town meeting.

Petition Warrant Article

Shall the Town Adopt the provisions of NH RSA 79 F (TAXATION OF FARM STRUCTURES AND LAND UNDER FARM STRUCTURES), to encourage the preservation of productive farms and associated structures and prevent the loss of farms and their associated structures due to property taxation at values incompatible with their usage.